CONFIDENTIAL August 16, 1963

Dear Mr. President:

I have asked my new Ambassador to your country, Henry Cabot Lodge, to deliver this letter to you at the time he presents his credentials. I do no think that I have to describe to you Ambassador Lodge's extraordinary experience in the public and international affairs of my country, since you are, I am sure, well aware of his accomplishments. I count myself and my Administration very fortunate to have him accept this appointment, because it is a true measure of the importance which we in the United States attach to the struggle your country is making against the threat to its peace and security.

As you may also know, Ambassador Lodge is a most distinguished native of my own State, Massachusetts, and served it in the United States Senate. We have known each other well and cordially for many years. For this reason I shall be reading his reports with considerable personal interest. I tell you this, Mr. President, because I think it important that Ambassador Lodge establish with you as quickly as possible a close working relationship based upon mutual confidence.

I know, as you do even better than I, that your country's struggle is not yet over. I assure you that we will

CONFIDENTIAL

Orig given to Amb. Lodge 8/15
cc Lowrie

continue to support your efforts to bring to your people the blessings of freedom, prosperity and human dignity.

With cordial good wishes for your personal welfare.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Ngo Dinh Diem,
President of the Republic of Viet-Nam,
Saigon.